

Oconee County Library Board Meeting
Minutes for January 9, 2023
4:30 p.m.
Oconee County Library

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Laura French, Mike Eddy, Matt Stephens, Rachel Watson, Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Deann Craft, Daphne Norton, Angela Moss-Hill, Fred Lutz, and Mandy Marable. Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present, including James Mitchell, Valerie Bell, Toby Mayfield, and Donna Butler.

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Norris made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick, which was unanimously passed by the Board.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Mitchell provided his Librarian's Report to the Board. His written report is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Mayfield provided her Assistant Director's report for regional services. Her written report is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Bell provided her Director's Report to the Board. Her written report is attached to these minutes.

The Friends of the Library Reports were provided by the Bogart Friends and Watkinsville Friends. The Bogart Friends are in a regrouping phase as they have lost their facility. The Watkinsville Friends have their upcoming book sale February 9-12, 2023 at the Civic Center. Ms. Norris encouraged everyone to attend and volunteer.

Mr. Campbell provided a report to the Board regarding the new library. The plans have been approved by the City of Watkinsville, and we have moved into the bid phase of the project. There are six bids that have been submitted. The analysis of bids was provided to the Board and is attached to these minutes as an exhibit. The recommendation of the staff and Chair is to proceed with Garland and Associates as the low bid, and because Garland has been on time and within budget on the Bogart Library project. Upon motion made by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Ms. Norris, the Board unanimously approved entering into a construction contract with Garland and Associates for the new Oconee County Library.

Mr. Campbell also discussed commemorative naming opportunities for the Oconee County Library at Wire Park. Donor opportunities range from \$1,000 up to \$75,000. One donor has submitted a pending donation in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Campbell encouraged the Board C

Chairman Campbell announced it would be in order to elect officers for 2023. He noted that Ms. French was stepping down as Secretary, and it would be in order to select a new Secretary for the Board. Upon motion by Ms. French, seconded by Ms. Marable, the following individuals were unanimously elected to serve as Officers for 2023:

Mark Campbell, Chairperson
Rubielen Norris, Vice-Chairperson
Fred Lutz, Secretary

There being no further business, upon motion made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Ms. Craft, the Board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bogart Library.


Mark Campbell, Chairman

Laura French, Secretary

Oconee County Library Board Meeting

Minutes for April 10, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Bogart Library

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Fred Lutz, Angela Moss-Hill, Deann Craft, Rachel Watson, Mike Eddy, Daphne Norton, Matt Stephens and Mandy Marable.

Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present including James Mitchell, Valarie Bell, Toby Mayfield and Donna Butler. Aria Higginbottom of Clark Outsourcing was present to present the new balance sheets added to the quarterly financial statement.

Upon motion by Ms. Norris seconded by Ms. Moss-Hill, the minutes of the January 2023 meeting were approved.

There were no public comments at the meeting. The meeting was video-recorded by Mr. Lee Becker of the community.

Chairman Campbell noted that Ms. Norris recently attended the Oconee Board of Commissioners meeting to accept the proclamation of appreciation from the commissioners for the community service provided by the Oconee County library.

Chairman Campbell also announced that construction has commenced on the new library at Wire Park. A ceremonial groundbreaking will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 14th. Both branches of the Oconee libraries will be closed until 12:30 p.m. on Friday so that library staff may attend the ceremony.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. His written report is attached.

The regional services report was provided by Ms. Mayfield. Her written report is attached.

The regional director's report was provided by Ms. Bell. Her written report is attached. Of particular note is the anticipated additional state budget support for the East Side project and the new Oconee County library. Also, a one-page ARLS strategic plan for 2023-2025 was provided which will serve as the basis for yearly tactical plans in the region. The new ARLS website is available at www.athenslibrary.org.

Chairman Campbell thanked board members who attended the board member training session on February 9th with the state librarian, Julie Walker, and also

expressed thanks to board members who attended the Library Day at the Capital on February 8th. Chairman Campbell noted that Oconee County was well represented. He urged members to continue to thank our elected officials for their support of the library.

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Watkinsville Friends of the Library conducted a very successful book sale in February. A family fun day is planned for May 15th.

Old Business: Chairman Campbell provided an update on the new library construction. If signed by the governor, the additional approved funding will help outfit the new library so that the finished product will be exceptional. Board members reviewed proposed commemorative naming opportunities for designated spaces in the library. There was no objection to the concepts of naming or to a donor wall. Ms. Norris asked for the library completion timeframe. Chairman Campbell indicated that construction was ahead of schedule such that completion may still be accomplished within this calendar year.

New Business: Chairman Campbell advised that a request for reconsideration of materials had been submitted in late March. Staff will review the request and provide a recommendation at the next board meeting. The item will be on the agenda for a vote by the board at the July meeting.

Library financial performance through the fiscal year third quarter was reviewed by the board. Chairman Campbell noted that budgeted revenues received (~79%) exceed expenditures (~72%) such that the finances are in good condition 75% through the year. Ms. Higginbottom explained the new balance sheets provided for both the system and gift accounts.

The proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year was presented and discussed. Revenues from funding partners are still tentative. The budget will be reviewed at the July meeting. Upon a motion by Ms. Norton seconded by Mr. Eddy, the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget was approved.

There being no further business, upon the motion offered by Ms. Norris and seconded by Ms. Marable, the board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is Monday July 10, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the Watkinsville library.


Mark Campbell, Chairman


Fred Lutz, Secretary

Bogart Library

Children Services:

- ★ **Donna:** Donna continues to offer three Early Literacy programs to develop language and literacy skills for ages birth - six weekly. She has added a monthly visit to Cleveland Road Elementary Pre-K and a bi-monthly ESOL program for school age children. We have added a very popular Meet & Play (open play) session every Friday morning. Parents LOVE it. So many new families have moved into the Bogart service area. Meet & Play has helped new residents make new friends, while their children develop social and emotional skills. We have added STEAM Wednesdays to our Lego rotation. Families are enjoying the addition of science, art and engineering programming for their children. However, sadness has appeared occasionally when a Little Lego Fanatic arrives to discover other things going on. Horrors! We're adapting to provide both STEAM and Lego on Wednesdays. We had a good turnout for our February STEAM Saturday, with a Bird ID walk and bird crafts for the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- ★ **Our new Chapter Chat Tween Book Club is going extremely well, with lots of enthusiasm and good attendance.** It's going so well, we're challenged with finding a time to continue it during the Summer Reading Program.
- ★ Read to Rover has resumed and has been so popular that Kathy Ricks, our TDI volunteer added an additional 30 minutes to make sure each child had a chance to read to Maisy Jane and Everleigh.

Passive Learning Programs:

- ★ **Children:** Art, puzzles, building, math, word searches and puppets
- ★ **Teens:** Sadly, we've had little response to our Teen programs, but we've had a number of teen volunteers, many of whom Donna trained as tweens. It's good to know they think of the Bogart Library as home!
- ★

Outreach: Donna visited CRES in February and March. Paul attended RBES Arts Night March 9th. Over 198 kids and parents dropped by the library "table" to get materials and participate in artistic activities. Kathryn helped at Dungeon & Dragon Night for Oconee and will help at FanFest. Blaine & Kay were judges for the NEGA Middle School Science Fair, as part of our reciprocal agreement with GYSTC/RESA. Penny presented library-based presentations to OLLIE, Torch Club and the UGA Women's Group. Penny introduced Valerie at the March meeting of the Torch Club. Members raved!

Adult Services:

- ★ **Bogart: Penny continues to offer superlative adult programming with the Bookies Book Club, Memoir Writing and the Mystery Club. All three groups have run out of room in the Creative Space and will move into the Multipurpose Room in April.** Donna presented a program on Georgia-born abstract expressionist artist, Alma Thomas. Kathryn has added a fabric arts program (Help! I Yarned) for adults on the third Friday of each month. Kathryn also offered Quilling as the craft for Crafting @ Midday in March.

“Inreach:”

- ★ Two grade levels from Cleveland Road Elementary School visited the library in February and March for a library tour, storytelling and information about library cards. Such a pleasure!

Watkinsville Library

Special Events

- ★ **Spring into Wellness**
 - We had roughly 20 vendors and organizations who helped participate and many had tables promoting their wellness resources in Oconee County.
 - We had little way to track how many patrons attended the event but we estimate that roughly 1,000 people attended.
- ★ **FanFest**
 - We had between 25 and 30 vendors, 3 food trucks, 7 performances, two workshops, gaming, and more
 - We estimate about 1300 participated this year. We saw a huge increase in attendance and also in how long people stayed at the event

Children Services:

- ★ **Storytime is still thriving. We’ve added in open play time at the end for families that want to stay longer but aren’t interested in crafts.** This has been a big hit, especially when we turn on the bubble machine.
- ★ Open play is still going strong. This program allows toddlers and caregivers to interact with each other, explore new activities, and practice their gross motor skills.
- ★ We tried an infant storytime at the request of a few patrons but didn’t have much success so we went back to open playtime only.
- ★ **Homeschool club has really taken off. We have great attendance weekly and have gotten so much positive feedback. We’re also partnering with the local Farm Bureau and Keep Oconee County Beautiful organizations who provide activities and supplies for one week a month during this program.**
- ★ Upcoming children’s library programs include: **a weekly coding program for tweens, a weekly children’s anime club, a Ramadan storytime and craft program, and a nature storytime at Harris Shoals Park.** We’re also putting the finishing touches on summer programming.

Passive Programs:

- ★ **Children: the children are loving the scavenger hunts around the children's side. We usually have 300 plus children participate each month!** We provide 100 different Grab & Go crafts for kids each week. These are a big hit and the children love to see what the craft will be each week.

Teen Services:

- ★ The Teen regular programs of PRISM, D&D, and Anime Club continue to go strong
- ★ **A monthly STEM program for teens has also been added and every session has been well attended**
- ★ **There is also a monthly program that looks at different cultures around the world through food, music and more. So far the Teens have done Korea, Italy, and France.**

Adult Services:

- ★ Crafting programs continue to be popular and garner a good deal of interest. Craft programs we have offered include: cutting board crafts, pressed flower crafts, and puzzle piece crafts.
- ★ **Zakk, Aaron, and Ash continue to grow our selection of gaming programs with regular Dungeons and Dragons sessions, Chess Club, and a Gaming Lounge.**
- ★ **In March we partnered with Rook & Pawn Board Game Cafe in Athens as well as the Athens, Madison, and Bogart branches to offer patrons First Quest. First Quest allowed patrons to play multiple table top games and we even had Rook & Pawn give themed food and drinks for the event. We are excited to partner with them again in the future.**
- ★ The 3rd Monday Book Club has continued to grow and solidly has 12-15 attendees every month. We have a wonderfully diverse list of books to read this year, all chosen by our patrons.
- ★ Upcoming programs for Adults & Families include a plant swap, Bob Ross Paint & Sip, Eat Like a Bridgerton, Mommy & Me Tea, Macrame Rainbow Wall Hanging Crafts, Austenland, and more. Ash is continuing to work on Summer Programming as well.

Patron Comments:**Bogart:**

We had a number of the usual thank yous for programming, thank yous for our friendliness and helpfulness, but the most touching comment came from one of our ESOL mothers, whose child was very, very shy. "Thank you and bless you for giving my child and these children your time and wonderful memories." An older patron, who attended our programs in place of ESOL for adults (plans underway!) kept saying "Bless you for your help! Bless you."

A grandmother of a three year old with a brand new baby brother said: "Ordinarily I don't share things about my grandchildren on my phone, but I just have to show you this." She proceeded to show us a video of the three year old singing the original opening song Donna uses to center the preschoolers, toddlers and infants at story time. The sweet big sister was worried that her little brother was crying, so Big Sis finished the song with "Don't cry, Brother! This song makes ME happy!" Hopefully, Baby Brother will attend Busy Bee Story Time soon.

Watkinsville:

We had a patron come into the library after FanFest and mentioned that her 80 year old mother had a blast and she hadn't seen her mom smile so much in many years. She showed us a picture of her mother with one of the Cosplayers and she had a big grin as she posed with the cosplayers props.

Toby Mayfield, Assistant Director for Regional Services - April 2023

- The branch managers and I all continue to meet each Wednesday to discuss important matters and attend training sessions. We often have guests (usually Resource Team Members) to discuss projects or collaborations. On February 15th, Elizabeth Hood -Regional Youth Services Coordinator, spoke with the team on youth services ideas and teen volunteers. On March 1st, we met in person at the Oglethorpe County Library. We discussed our strategic plan and using an Appreciative Inquiry approach in our planning of activities to reach our goals. Our next in person meeting will be August 2nd at the Bogart Library.
- Attended Legislative Day 2023 on Wednesday, February 8th with several staff and board members from around the region. Myself and ACC staff member Theresa Rice visited the offices of legislators representing Oglethorpe County.
- Attended the Library Board of Trustees Training session on Feb 9th.
- Worked with the City of Danielsville to reduce the Madison County Library water bill from January which included the dates in December when the massive leak was discovered and repaired.
- Interviewed candidates for Royston Public Library programming specialist and children's programming specialist with branch manager, Maggie West. **-Hired Nicole Bryant and Erin Lutz.**
- Coordinated Listen Everywhere training sessions for Madison, Oglethorpe, Royston, and Bogart. This is the software used with the hearing loops installed in each of these locations.
- Assisted with the writing of budget proposal narratives for Oconee and Franklin counties.
- Attended the 1st Annual Spring into Wellness event at Wire Park. This was an amazing day with a huge turnout!
- Attended the Southeastern Collaborative Conference virtually March 14 - 16. There were many wonderful sessions including: Beyond Performance Reviews: Calibrating Talent to Grow a Stronger Leadership Pipeline.
- Continued work in the regional strategic planning process, the Wire Park -Watkinsville project, the GEER grant team, and the East Side User Group.

- Included in the list of bond projects in the State Conference Committee budget is an additional \$500,000 for the East Side project, and \$500,000 for the Oconee County Library Watkinsville Branch at Wire Park. Also in the budget is \$0.70 per capita for materials, and MRR and Technology funding. Of course, nothing is final until the Governor signs.
- We completed the **AUP** for FY22. Most of the findings we received were due to the FY 22 import of our financial software Blackbaud to the new software MIP. Clark Outsourcing is working to remedy that situation. One was because we did not include a balance sheet on Board Financials, which as you see we have started doing now.
- **Clark Outsourcing** has been working hard to reconcile the entries from Blackbaud to MIP. The target date to have this reconciled is by the end of the fiscal year.
- I have a meeting scheduled with Julie Walker, State Librarian, and Christopher Evans, GPLS Finance Director, on 4/10/23 to discuss and make recommendations on best practices to restructure the **Business Office** since Mamie's retirement.
- We have completed our work with Fast Forward Libraries, our **Strategic Plan** consultants. The goals and objectives are attached and will be presented to the Regional Board for approval. It will be placed on our website after that approval. The Resource Team, Branch Managers, and Department Heads have now been tasked with developing activities to meet our goals and objectives. This should be completed by the start of the new fiscal year.
- We conducted a very successful **Board Training** on February 9th. Julie Walker was our guest speaker and I believe that everyone learned a lot from that training.
- The **Oconee County Watkinsville Branch at Wire Park groundbreaking** will be held on April 14th from 10:00 - 12:00. Please consider yourselves invited to attend.
- We are hosting a **celebration of Rebecca Ballard's Georgia Library Staff Person of the Year on April 21st from 3:00 - 5:00**. You are all invited to attend and please bring a friend or two. This is a great honor for Rebecca and for ARLS.
- All of the **Hearing Loops** are in place. We are currently testing them and adjusting some tweaks. This has been a long journey with many ups and downs. I am grateful to Greg Deal for his IT expertise in handling these situations. I am also thankful to Sue Plaksin for writing the grant and keeping up with all of the changes.
- The new **website** is up and running. We have received great feedback on our new look for ARLS's 12th and 24-hour branch. I am grateful to Sean Hribal and the website team for all of the hard work that they put into making this transition a success.
- We received a **\$2,000 marketing grant from Georgia Public Library Service to promote early literacy and story time**. The campaign will roll out in April and includes brochures that will be distributed to pediatricians' offices and health departments, a social media campaign, media pitches for interviews with Miss Rebecca, and a Spotify radio ad. It's our third time receiving this grant!

Oconee County Library Board Meeting
Minutes for July 10, 2023
4:30 p.m.
Watkinsville Library

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Fred Lutz, Angela Moss-Hill, Deann Craft, Rachel Watson, Mike Eddy, Daphne Norton, Matt Stephens, Laura French and Johnathan Kirkpatrick.

Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present including James Mitchell, Donna Butler, Valarie Bell, Toby Mayfield and Lorrie Lavengood.

The meeting was video recorded by Mr. Lee Becker of the community. Chairman Campbell welcomed the large number of community members that were present. Time permitting, some eighteen Oconee County residents were given the opportunity to address the board for three minutes each based on their order of sign-up. After the completion of public comments, approximately 2/3 of the community attendees departed the meeting.

Upon a motion by Ms. Norris seconded by Ms. French, the minutes of the April 2023 meeting were approved.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. The written report is attached.

The regional services report was provided by Ms. Mayfield. The written report is attached.

Regional Director Bell reported that the employer share of state health benefits is increasing dramatically each year for the next three years. The first increase is expected to take place in January 2024. This unexpected increase along with the decrease in funds received from the City of Watkinsville have required a revision to the projected budget approved at the April board meeting. The revised budget can support no staff raises this fiscal year. The staff is working on adding tactical elements to the regional strategic plan goals that were established last fiscal year.

Friends of the Library activities reported included a book sale in Bogart planned for September 30th and a fall book sale planned by the Watkinsville friends. Watkinsville friends hosted a successful family fun day with several hundred people attending.

Old Business

Chairman Campbell provided an update to construction progress for the new Oconee County library at Wire Park. New exterior walls are in place. A progress walk-thru is planned for July 11th. Completion in December is still projected which would support an orderly move to the new location in January 2024.

The revised budget (accommodating the increased cost of employer provided health insurance) was presented for board approval. Upon a motion by Mr. Eddy seconded by Ms. French, the revised budget was approved.

Chairman Campbell and Mr. Mitchell addressed a request for reconsideration of material submitted by a resident of Oconee County. Mr. Mitchell explained the staff reconsideration process which culminates in a recommendation to the intellectual freedom committee of the library board. After review, the committee recommended that the book "*Flamer*" be moved from the young adult area to the adult area of the library. Discussion ensued among the board members and library staff. Upon a motion by Mr. Lutz seconded by Ms. Norris, the recommendation of the intellectual freedom committee was unanimously adopted moving the book to the adult area. .

New Business

Chairman Campbell expressed a desire for better communication among board members and library staff. He requested staff to provide a report of planned programs for the upcoming quarter. Chairman Campbell also noted that as an advisory board it is not the board's function to dictate policy or programs to staff. The reports of upcoming events each quarter will keep the board informed and will facilitate board participation and feedback. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Butler reviewed the upcoming programs planned for Watkinsville and Bogart, respectively. Chairman Campbell requested that the reports for subsequent quarters be provided in advance as "read ahead" prior to the scheduled quarterly board meetings.

There being no further business, upon the motion by Ms. Norris and seconded by Mr. Eddy, the board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2023 at the Bogart library.


Mark Campbell, Chairman


Fred Lutz, Secretary

Athens Regional Library System
Engaging Communities, Exceeding Expectations
Branch Manager Report for Library Board of Trustees
Oconee County Library, James Mitchell
Date: 7/10/2023
July 2023 Librarian's Report to Library Board

Bogart Library

Children Services:

- ★ Our numbers are almost back to Pre-Pandemic numbers with LOTS of children showing up for our in-house programming, especially toddler and preschool story times. We've had good turnout for our visiting performers, as well. Our in-house staff presented puppet shows have been a surprising hit, too. Our annual Avenger Tween helper program has over 35 in full-participation, which is as many as Donna & Paul can handle, so we were unable to do a third training for the 10 on the waiting list. We have close to 600 registered "readers" with over 50 already on their second round of reading for buttons. We have over 35 Chapter Book readers over the age of 8, who "accept the challenge" complete with a wooden sword knighting. Some readers have completed close to 75 hours.

Passive Learning Programs:

- ★ Puzzles, Legos, Voting for various topics, blocks, rhyming activities
- ★ **Teens:** Art & A Movie, Trivia, Escape the Record Store Escape Room (huge hit!)
- ★ **Family Events:** Puppet Shows & Crafts, Family Trivia, Lego Saturday, Big Family Read, Pollinator Party
- ★ **Tweens:** Graphic Novel Book Club, Tween Star Wars Bingo, Tween Art, Tween & MS Escape Room, Choose Your Own Adventure, Avenger Volunteer Program

★

Outreach: Spring: Donna visited four schools to promote SRP. Summer: Donna visited Sandy Creek & Bear Hollow Zoo for storytelling.

Adult Services:

- ★ Bogart: **Lunch & Learns:** Cynthia Jameson presented a military history program on the White Table Ceremony. Penny Mills presented a program on the Constitution. In addition, we've been very pleased with book club and our memoir writing program attendance. Jeannette Waddell, a professional storyteller from Milledgeville was scheduled to do a presentation on William & Ellen Craft at Bogart on June 13th and Athens on June 14th. Unfortunately, she suffered a loss in her family. Ms. Waddell has rescheduled at Athens July 13th, but Bogart will reschedule her visit to a Saturday in September to allow more time to re-advertise the event.

Watkinsville Library

Children Services:

- ★ We offered separate storytime programs for older children to celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Black Music History Month, Pride Month, and will have one for Disability Pride Month this Friday. We had great turn out for all of these programs with positive feedback from parents about each one.
- ★ The Pride Program of RuPaul biography and our Pride display received considerable feedback of both negative and positive comments. We try to always make sure everyone in the community sees themselves in the programs, books, and displays that we offer. This goes back to our Mission Statement of "We are committed to promoting library services for all of our counties' diverse populations." We also try and treat every group the same. We listened to feedback from parents and have had several good suggestions. We try and keep storytime generic in its subject matter so as many people as possible will come and enjoy it. We don't censor out certain groups or representation however. Normally we have never advertised the book that would be in storytime because it can change and was not necessary. Suggestions from patrons that we publish the book before storytime so that parents can make a decision if the storytime is something they want to attend, is in line with our values and also a good way to get more info to parents so they can decide for themselves.

We also had parents say that if we do a program for Pride Month that we clearly mark it as a Pride Month program. This is once again a good suggestion because it gives more information to parents but stays true to our Mission.

A third suggestion was that instead of doing monthly cultural celebrations for our displays that we do more generic topics but have diversity be part of those displays when appropriate but just not the central feature.

Pride saw lots of feedback about displays and storytimes. I had probably more than a 100 people visit in person or call me on the telephone to either say how much it meant to them that we offered these programs or from those who were against having the programs and displays. Though some people elevated their voices and were passionate about their displeasure with the programs and displays they never crossed a line in person into what I would deem inappropriate behavior. There was a lot of things online that named staff members and was more derogatory. This was an extremely hard month for the staff to see those things said about them and being unable to respond. They did an amazing job though of staying professional and continuing to do their jobs at the highest level. I commend them for that.

- ★ Our children's summer reading program has brought in great numbers. We have given out 1500 logs so far this summer and have had 250 children complete the program already. The children are loving the new way we're doing logs and prizes this summer, a simplified way that helps parents and staff keep track. Our Wednesday morning summer programs have been big hits with attendance numbers ranging from 150-300 people each week.

- ★ Storytime numbers are looking great as well - families are very vocal about how much they are enjoying the program this summer. Each week we're seeing between 35-60 people each week.
- ★ We have a local elementary school teacher who has been leading a game of Dungeons & Dragons for kids each week this summer and it has been a huge success. We have near constant requests for a DnD game for kids so this is a need we're happy we can finally meet.
- ★ We were also able to partner with local authors to offer author visits and creative writing workshops for children this summer.
- ★ In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, we partnered with a local therapist to speak with parents and caregivers about how to recognize and navigate their children's emotions.
- ★ In addition to over 20 unique programs in May and June, we also offered 6 weekly programs for including: storytime (0-5 years), open playtime(0-5 years), coding club(8-12 years), builder club (5-12 years), lego club(5-12 years), and anime club(8-12 years).

Passive Programs: the children are loving the monthly scavenger hunts around the children's side. We have almost 200 children participate each month! We continue to provide weekly Grab & Go crafts for kids. We assemble 100 crafts for each week. We provide at least 400 crafts each month.

Teen Services:

- ★ Teen Summer Reading has been moving along smoothly. The teen department has added additional events during on select Mondays and Fridays to accommodate a wide range of teen schedules this summer in addition to the usual evening programs. There will be 22 events for teens this summer.
- ★ The first month of summer reading has had 64 Teens sign up to read with registered teens reading over 400 books.
- ★ The teen department is trialing a coding arduino and robotics sign up which is in place for teens to use this summer. They can use the arduino and 30 Days Lost in Space to teach themselves coding and circuitry and can use our robotics kits independently. Currently we have one teen working weekly on this. We hope to increase use of STEAM items in the new library space.

- ★ The Teen Department is running a ten event year long program called Around the World Food Showcase with teens learning to cook and/or appreciate international or regional foods.
- ★ The teen department has applied for and been granted over \$1100 in STEAM equipment - including 2 telescopes, 2 robotics kits, a coding arduino and renewable energy items through Civil Air Patrol. These items were granted at no cost for use at the library.
- ★ The Teen Department has a formed working relationship with the Cornell Center for Materials Research Lending Library of Experiments to access dozens of high school level STEAM kits free of charge increasing our ability to bring quality STEM programming to the library at no additional cost.
- ★ There are 20 teens participating in the July 15th Teen Makers Market.
- ★ The Teen department has been accepting applications and will host a teen art show in the month of August in the library's auditorium. There will be a reception on Wednesday, August 23rd to recognize teen artists.
- ★ The Teen department is coordinating with the adult and children's departments to host a Homeschool Expo and Swap on August 19 and 20.
- ★ Since the last board meeting the Teen Department ran monthly club events for STEAM Club, Anime Club, Prism Club and D&D (D&D has been halted for summer to make room in the schedule for extra summer reading events). The Teen Department walked with staff from across ARLS and Prism Club teens/parents at the 2nd annual Pride Parade and attended the public Pride Festival outreach event with the Athens Library Teen Department after the parade. STEAM Club hosted teens to wire bug bots and buzzer games in April and ran a Forensic Science class in May. Summer STEAM Club has open lab stations where teens can work independently.

- ★ Since the last board meeting the Teen Department has run the following special events:
Luau Night (get ready for Asian/Pacific Island heritage month by learning to cook spam musubi)

A Night in Paris (learn to make and cook crepes/watch a movie)

Teen Makers Market Info Session

Summer Reading Kickoff (crafts and a trivia competition)

Quality Quidditch Supplies (create Hogwarts themed brooms)

Sorcerer's Stone House Cup Competition (A series of challenges and relay races)

Robotics Coding and Information session

Time Turner Crafts (we offered the crafts from the kickoff event for teens who could not make the first event)

Magical Menagerie Movie Matinee (make paper creatures, eat popcorn, watch a movie)

STEAM Club drop in lab (polymers, microscopy, robotics and building stations)

Meet the Author Event: Julian Winters (a talk about writing and a book giveaway)

Gaming Night for Teens (handheld games and the new Harry Potter game as well as VR headsets from the Athens Library),

Gringotts Bank (decorate a wooden bank craft)

TriWizard Tournament House Cup Competition (competitive paper crafts, water game relay outside, a treasure hunt and learn to use a computer to look up books in Pines)

Harry Potter Escape Room (We did 3, 1 hour sessions of an escape room - this was a huge hit)

July House Cup Competition (trick shots with ping pong balls and other team based indoor challenges)

Honeydukes Sweets (Hogwarts themed candy making- teens decorated chocolate frogs and made bitter lollipops).

- ★ The teen department has received favorable feedback from several parents for our themed summer reading events we have held this summer, our work on the Teen Makers Market as well as from multiple community members and parents who have thanked us for Prism Club.

- ★ The teen department has offered the following take homes for teens since the last board meeting: Mason Bee Houses, Tiny Books, Teen Summer Boredom Buster Coloring Book, Teen Summer Boredom Buster Puzzle Book, Fathers' Day Craft

Adult Services:

- ★ During SRP, Adult Services has offered over 25 different programs, weekly drawings for prizes, and a BINGO sheet for an end of summer drawing. Each week sees 15-20 different people enter the weekly prize drawing and most programs have between 5 and 20 attendees, depending on the program.
- ★ During the first month of SRP, Adult Services has handed out over 250 BINGO cards for patrons to track their reading and participate in the end of summer prize drawing.
- ★ Adult Services is pleased to announce that this fall we will begin offering a monthly fiction book club that coordinates with monthly celebrations. Book Clubs that are currently on the schedule celebrate Women's Equality Day (August), Hispanic Heritage Month (September), Filipino Heritage Month (October), and Native American Heritage Month (November).
- ★ Adult Services is working on planning a number of programs for the fall with the Oconee County Senior Center, Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission, and Oconee County Extension Office.
- ★ Adult Services has continued to offer monthly craft programs and book clubs. Some of these have included: 3rd Monday Book Club, Reading Rainbow, Bob Ross Paint Night, DIY Spa Night, Mason Jar Crafts, Sketch & Stretch, and Macrame Rainbow Wall Hanging.
- ★ One of our Circulation staff members, Aaron Dial, has been running monthly D&D games for Adults. These have become so popular that he has opened up another game on a different Wednesday night and another game on Saturdays. Due to high demand, he will now be offering three different monthly events.
- ★ Adult Services continues to coordinate with local artists to display their art in both the Library Gallery Space and the Auditorium Gallery Space. These spaces are booked until we move to Wire Park.
- ★ Adult Services worked in conjunction with Childrens to host a Mommy & Me tea for Mothers Day that was entirely full with 30 people. We had tea and food as well as crafts of making your own sunhat and making a mothers day card.

- ★ Adult Services hosted and organized an all ages program that celebrated Jane Austen and her works of fiction. Patrons decorated cupcakes, learned calligraphy, learned how to age paper with coffee, learned how to embroider, learned how to play croquet, and more.
- ★ AS has started a Writing Club for adults who are interested in getting peer reviews from other writers in our community. It is a chance for us to network and meet other authors as well as receive feedback from one another. We have had great success and patrons have connected outside of the library to support one another in writing.
- ★ AS does outreach at the Oconee County Farmers Market once a month.
- ★ AS did a few movement programs that combined stretching with art as well as yoga with healthy eating.
- ★ The History Lecture Series continues to be one of our most popular programs for adults and allows patrons to give lectures on history topics that they are passionate about. This program has continued to grow and is one of our most attended programs.
- ★ This summer, Adult Services have offered multiple programs partnering with local experts including: Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission for a composting program, Dr. Maurice Snook for an astronomy program, and Erika Massie for a book binding program.
- ★ AS will coordinate with local artisans to provide demonstrations of their hands-on skills like pottery, quilting, looming, woodworking, sewing, and more for patrons. The Artisan Exposition's goal is to encourage and inspire patrons to learn a hands-on skill.
- ★ Passive Programs in Adults:
 - Puzzles - we have to replace every few days
 - Never be Bored Board- weekly questions that patrons can respond to
 - Adult Coloring Sheets- allow patrons to relax and sheets usually have to be replaced at least once a week

Patron Comments:

Bogart:

Watkinsville:

Toby Mayfield, Assistant Director for Regional Services - July 2023

- The branch managers and I all continue to meet each Wednesday to discuss important matters and attend training sessions. We often have guests (usually Resource Team Members) to discuss projects or collaborations. On May 24th & 30th, Anna Tench -Technical Assistant and Trainer, spoke with the team on circulation procedures for the chromebooks and launchpads. On June 21st, Darcy Downie -ARLS Public Information Officer, met with our team for the first time. Our next in person meeting will be August 2nd at the Bogart Library.
- Attended all library board meetings: Winterville, Madison, Franklin, Oconee, Athens-Clarke, Oglethorpe, and ARLS from April 6-21.
- Interviewed candidates for the Oglethorpe County Library branch manager with Executive Director, Valerie Bell, and Board of Trustees Chair, Mike Garner. **-Hired Katherine Ratcliffe**
- Interviewed candidates for the Madison County Library library assistant position with Branch Manager, Aleta Mendenhall-Turner. **-Hired Megan Dudley**
- Attended the Marigold Festival where our very own, Deirdre Murry, Branch Manager of Winterville Library, Co-Marshalled the parade with State Librarian Julie Walker! Regional Children's Librarian, Rebecca Ballard, performed with her Rebecca Sunshine Band on the stage at the Front Porch Bookstore. Winterville Library Assistant, Sam Watson, performed a lovely storytime for the children in the audience.
- Attended the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting on June 5th.
- Attended the Oconee County Board of Commissioners meeting on June 6th.
- Continued work in the Wire Park -Watkinsville project, the GEER grant team, and the East Side User Group as well as the regional strategic planning process -created activity plans for Watkinsville, Bogart, Madison, Oglethorpe, Aaron Heard, Lay Park, and Winterville. All remaining branches will be completed by the end of July.
- Completed or reviewed annual reviews for all branch managers and branch staff.

Oconee County Library Board Meeting

Minutes for October 9, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Bogart Library

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Fred Lutz, Angela Moss-Hill, Deann Craft, Daphne Norton and Laura Moore.

Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present including James Mitchell, Donna Butler, Valarie Bell and Toby Mayfield.

The meeting was video recorded by Dr. Penny Mills of the community. Chairman Campbell welcomed the community members that were present. Four Oconee County residents were given the opportunity to address the board for three minutes each based on their order of sign-up.

Upon a motion by Ms. Norris seconded by Ms. Moss-Hill, the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting were approved.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. The written report is attached. Mr. Mitchell also reviewed the planned programming for Oconee libraries for the next quarter. Chairman Campbell commented that the programming report format is much improved, and that providing it as read ahead for board members in advance of the meeting was appreciated.

Regional Director Bell expanded on the mandated change to employee health benefits discussed at the July meeting. The Regional Strategic Plan has been completed and will be presented to the Regional Board for approval at the October 19th meeting. Director Bell's written report is attached. In closing, Director Bell indicated that the Oconee Board needs to approve a date for closing the Watkinsville Branch Library to support an orderly move to the new Wire Park location. November 24th was suggested as the date for closure.

The regional services report was provided by Ms. Mayfield. The written report is attached.

Friends of the Library activities reported included cancelation of the planned Bogart Friends September 30th book sale and the completion of a successful book sale at the Oconee Community Center. Mr. Mitchell provided the Oconee library friends a behind the scenes tour of the Wire Park library facility.

Old Business

Chairman Campbell reported that construction of the new Oconee County library at Wire Park is going very well. The next meeting of the Library Advisory Board is scheduled for January 8th in the new library. A motion offered by Ms. Norris and seconded by Ms. Norton that the Watkinsville Branch close November 24th to support orderly transition to Wire Park was unanimously approved. Director Bell noted that the book drop containers would remain open in Watkinsville for several weeks after branch closing.

New Business


Chairman Campbell indicated that five books had been reviewed by the library staff as well as the intellectual freedom committee of the library board based on requests for reconsideration submitted by Oconee County residents. Five recommendations were provided to the Oconee Advisory Board for formal consideration at the meeting. Decisions were documented on a newly developed Book Action Decision Form, Discussion ensued.

1. Based on a motion by Mr. Lutz, seconded by Ms. Craft, the book, *Beyond Magenta*, was reclassified from young adult to the adult section. Ms. Moss-Hill dissented.
2. Based on a motion by Ms. Norris, seconded by Ms. Moore, the book, *If You're a Kid Like Gavin*, was unanimously designated juvenile nonfiction rather than picture book and retained in the current juvenile section.
3. Based on a motion by Mr. Lutz, seconded by Ms. Norton, the book, *Welcome to Consent*, was reclassified from juvenile to the young adult section.
4. Based on a motion by Ms. Norris, seconded by Ms. Moore, the book, *Welcome to St. Hell*, was unanimously reclassified from young adult to the adult section.
5. Based on a motion by Ms. Norton, seconded by Ms. Moss-Hill, the book, *The ABC's of LGBTQ+*, was unanimously retained in its current young adult classification.

Director Bell and Mr. Mitchell addressed the topic of art for the new library. After discussion, Chairman Campbell stated that he would appoint a committee to consider art, art locations, funding and potential providers. He requested that board members interested serving on the art committee contact him outside of the meeting. Director Bell also noted that the dedication plaques attached to the Watkinsville Branch Library might need to be removed for possible display at the Wire Park location. After discussion, Chairman Campbell indicated that handling of the dedication plaques would be added to the charter of the art committee.

There being no further business, upon the motion by Mr. Lutz and seconded by Ms. Moss-Hill, the board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the new Oconee County Library in Wire Park.


Mark Campbell, Chairman


Fred Lutz, Secretary

Athens Regional Library System
Engaging Communities, Exceeding Expectations
Branch Manager Report for Library Board of Trustees
Oconee County Library, James Mitchell
Date: 10/09/2023
October 2023 Librarian's Report to Library Board

Bogart Library

Children Services:

- ★ Oh, my! Our summer and fall programs have continued to bloom, along with our Tween volunteer program this summer. Donna had over 40 young volunteers, ages 9 - 14, who assisted at programs, prepped crafts and kept our library full of energy and life. 43 "top readers" and the tween volunteers attended an after hours pizza and movie night on July 28th. Library staff served over 4 gallons of lemonade, 140 pieces of pizza, 40 popsicles and popped 18 bags of popcorn. Several parents stayed and were amazed! Several commented on how much they appreciated our dedication to their children. "Helping out at the library really gave my daughter a purpose. That's not easy for 11 year olds. They're too young to have jobs, but are too old for the little kids' stuff."
- ★ Our fall programs continue to be a success. Donna has waiting lists for both Busy Bee Toddler Times, with over 20 showing up for the first 10 am program! Meet and Play on Fridays has been a great opportunity for parents to meet each other. Read to Rover has resumed and draws LOTS of kids on the third Thursday of each month.
- ★

Passive Learning Programs:

Puppet theater, Coloring, Blocks, Legos, Puzzles. (We received the donation of a puppet theater from another branch. The kids LOVE it and we enjoy hearing the impromptu puppet voices coming from the children's section.

★ **Teens:**

Dungeons & Dragons has resumed for Tweens/Teens and has been very successful, thanks to Kathryn and volunteers Angela and Larry Moss-Hill. Paul's Arty Evening and Tween Trivia programs were extremely successful this summer. Our Teen Escape the Record Store escape room was also a great success. Blaine is planning an Escape the Library program during Winter Break or shortly after. (She is also presenting a program on Escape Rooms at Staff Development Day.) Kathryn hosted "Art & A Movie!" this summer. There were requests for more movies, so she's added Frigh-Day Frights to our schedule, for both teens and adults.

★ **Family Events:**

We held several very successful Family Events this summer, including Big Family Read: Mr. Limoncello's Library, puppet shows and a Pollinator Party. We've also added Family Game Saturdays to our monthly schedule. The first on September 21st was very successful. At this writing, we are looking forward to STEAM Saturday: Solar Edition with Dr. Maurice Snook. Families will make solar viewers and learn about the annular solar eclipse. We're looking forward to Hogwart's Halloween and Boo, Ya'll! in October. We'll have Family Movies, Gingerfest and Booking it With Santa in December and are

planning a puppetry workshop and "Calming Bag Creations" workshop in January and February. Both will be led (with Donna's assistance) by two of our tween and teen volunteers.

Tweens:

Tween Trivia Nights, Tween Escape Room (Escape the Record Store), Star Wars Trivia, Choose Your Own Adventure and our Pizza Party were very well attended. Paul has a knack for Tween programming.

Outreach:

Donna presented at the Northeast Georgia RESA School Library and Media Specialist Conference. She did storytelling for Sandy Creek Nature Center and Bear Hollow Zoo, in exchange for programming at Bogart. She also hosted Cleveland Road Elementary 2nd grade and visited Cleveland Road Elementary Kindergarten. Several Bogart staff attended and provided passive programming (including face painting) at the Bogart Fall Festival.

Adult Services:

- ★ Bogart: Help! I Yarned with Kathryn is growing well. Penny Mills continues to shine with two book clubs and our monthly memoir group. This summer, we hosted programming on The Constitution and The Military White Table Ceremony.

Watkinsville Library

Children Services:

- ★ Children's Librarian Carley Stewart has left for a new Outreach job in North Carolina. We have hired Jeralee Mornhinweg as the new Children's Librarian
- ★ The programming rooms are currently not available as there was mold detected in the rooms. We have transitioned to using the Ivy Room for the next two months

Children Services Special Events Since July 10 Board Meeting:

- ★ Toddler art in July and September
- ★ Kids writing group and Creative writing workshop
- ★ Where the Wild Things Are meet and greet and storytime
- ★ We Move Together Storytime
- ★ Infant Storytime
- ★ Rapunzel meet and greet
- ★ Saturday Storytime
- ★ Lego Club Saturday
- ★ Book Binding Workshop
- ★ Ice Cream Party with Rebecca Sunshine
- ★ Harry Potter Birthday Party
- ★ Brown Bag Family Movie

- ★ Grandparents' Day Brunch
- ★ Rosh Hashanah Storytime
- ★ Spanish Storytime
- ★ Read Around the World Book Club

Children's Services continued to do the following weekly events:

- ★ Storytime (Tuesdays)
- ★ Read to Rover (monthly)
- ★ Open Play (Thursdays)
- ★ Lego Club (Thursdays)
- ★ Builder Club (through July)
- ★ Coding Club (through July)
- ★ Anime Club (through July)

Passive Programs: Crafternoon (Tuesdays)

Teen Services Recurring Events:

- ★ Dungeons and Dragons (August and September)
- ★ Prism Club
- ★ Anime Club
- ★ Teen Book Club

Teen Services Special Events:

- ★ Teen Maker's Market- Very well attended event in mid July where teens sold their handmade products to the public at the library.
- ★ Magical Cake competition
- ★ Three Broomsticks- Teach teen how to cook meat and pumpkin hand pies.
- ★ Back-to-school ice cream social
- ★ End of summer reading awards and Harry Potter's birthday
- ★ Hamilton Sing a Long
- ★ Teen Art Show and Reception-very well-attended evening to celebrate the nine teen artists who showed their art in the auditorium all of August.
- ★ Homeschool Expo Info session- ran during the swap and provided a place for homeschoolers to interface with businesses that offer homeschool specific services (example: Athens Technical College Dual enrollment)
- ★ Homeschool Expo swap- Very well-attended event that ran for a weekend in August and provided local families with hundreds of books and supplies that were donated by the community.

- ★ Beta Club Open House- an event where the OCHS Beta club was invited to come learn all about autumn volunteering at the library.

Teen passive programs:

The teen department started a new monthly passive program called "Teen Book Worm Bags". Each bag has a book, a book mark, a decorative pin, stickers and several pieces of candy.

Teen Services gave out 20 back to school origami crafts.

Adult Services:

Adult Services Recurring Events:

- ★ 3rd Monday Book Club
- ★ Dungeons & Dragons for Adults
- ★ Pen Pals Writing Group
- ★ Across the Board Book Club
- ★ History Lecture Series
- ★ Vietnamese Class
- ★ Bookish Trailblazers
- ★ Bingo

Adult Services Special Events:

- ★ Artisan Expo
- ★ Genealogy After Dark
- ★ Paint & Sip
- ★ Celebrate Faith: Sacred Texts
- ★ Constellation Cross-Stitch
- ★ Charity Crafters
- ★ Hobbit Day
- ★ Voter Registration
- ★ Local History Expo
- ★ Adult Services worked with local artisans to provide patrons the opportunity to watch demonstrations and learn how to do different crafts such as pottery, weaving, spinning yarn, and embroidery. This event had over 80 participants who all got to learn about hands-on crafts and arts.
- ★ Adult Services worked with the Clarke Oconee Genealogical Society and the Heritage Room at the Athens Clarke County Library to have an after hours program called

Genealogy After Dark. Thanks to our Friends of the Library, we were able to provide each participant with dinner.

- ★ We are working with the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscripts UGA Sports Memorabilia Collection, the Watkinsville Historical Society, and the Heritage Room at the Athens Clarke County Library to provide the Local History Expo.
- ★ Ash is working on a Community Art Exhibit where patrons of all ages can submit their art to be our first Artists displayed at the new space at Wire Park.
- ★ Adult Services celebrated the works of JRR Tolkien with a Hobbit Day event open to all ages. We had an escape room designed by Ash and each time slot had at least ten people signed up. We also had four different crafts for patrons to choose from and over 50 patrons attended over the three hour period.
- ★ Ash organized 2 Charity Crafters events that helped the Athens Area Homeless Shelter by allowing patrons to knit or crochet dishcloths. Patrons created over 25 dishcloths for the Athens Area Homeless Shelter to use in their “going home kits”.
- ★ Adult Services added a second book club on the Last Thursday of every month to accommodate patrons who asked for a daytime book club. Ash will pick books for this book club based on the cultural heritage month of that month. Example: Women’s Equality Day (August), Hispanic Heritage Month (September), Filipino American History Month (October), and Native American Heritage Month (November).
- ★ Passive Programs in Adults:
 - Never Be Bored Board
 - Library Card Sign-up Month Raffle

Patron Comments:

Bogart:

“ I tell everyone that the library is the best value around. Ya’ll are so kind and do such a great job helping me find books. My only complaint is that you don’t charge me enough when I bring books back late!” *Never heard that before. DOB*

A letter from a patron, which included some of her favorite quotes about libraries: “All these years later, I’ve had the pleasure to be a conduit between these sublime authors and friends, neighbors, educators of my children, family members and even our priest! Now, I’m connecting my librarian and her staff to the great Celeste Ng. Thank you for being an even better conduit of glorious words and stories to those of us who need them; for many of us, our local library is a sacred place. Warmly and with gratitude,” Gina

"Thank you so much for helping these kids understand how important it is to have a purpose and to help others."

"A patron dropped by to pick up a hold and came to the front desk. She said 'I'm so glad you are here. I wanted to tell you how much it meant to me to see your encouraging face at the last Board meeting. You and this library are so special to me and my family. You all give off an aura of kindness and I know that everyone who walks in your door knows that this is a safe place. You go out of your way to be kind to everyone who comes in and it's noted and appreciated. Thank you for helping our community.'" DOB

Watkinsville:

"Hi there, wanted to send along praise for adult programs with Ash at Oconee County Library! I have loved getting to do painting and other activities. She does an amazing job creating and facilitating wonderful, engaging events and is so kind. Also have been loving the additions of Father's Day and grandparents' day parties.... Jessica were awesome as usual. Thank you for these wonderful programs!"

Regarding the Teen Art Show and Reception:

Thanks so much for organizing this. We had a great time.-- parent of teen artist

This was a wonderful experience for our daughter! Thank you for the opportunity to showcase her talent in a public setting and having a reception our whole family could attend! – Parent of a teen artist

Regarding the Homeschool Swap:

Thank you for this! I am on a budget and this helped us find some of the resources we needed to homeschool. – Homeschool parent who attended the August Swap.

Regarding the Teen Makers Market:

We had a wonderful day and sold out! Thanks!-- parent of a teen at the market

Regarding Prism Club:

"I am so glad that Prism is safe and that so many people rooted for us" – Prism Club teen in response to the July 10, 2023 board meeting.

" We drove past the library and saw all of the cars at the board meeting and I got so scared.... I am so happy everything is ok. I heard we could keep Prism Club and I started crying. I am so happy we can keep Prism. Prism is literally what helped me be more comfortable with myself."- Teen in response to the July 10, 2023 library board meeting.

"I am glad Prism will keep going!! Thank you for always advocating for us and for creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming space."- Prism Club teen in response to the Library board meeting of July 10, 2023.

"Thank you so much for hosting these kids at Prism Club. My child has nowhere else to go where they feel accepted. We drive almost an hour to be here." – Father of a Prism Club Teen.

Oconee Library Program Plans

Blue Weekly

Red Monthly

Green One Time

Pink Series

Watkinsville

Children's Department

Storytime (Tuesday through November with exception of 11/21)

10/10 Duck and Goose Find a Pumpkin (Todd Mills)

10/17 Dinosaur Roar (Paul Strickland)

10/24 No Such Thing (Ella Bailey)

10/31 Trick or Treat Bugs to Eat (Tracey C Gold)

11/7 Old Bear (Kevin Henkes)

11/14 You're my Little Pumpkin Pie (Nicola Edwards)

11/28 Walter's Wonderful Web (Tim Hopgood)

Spanish Storytime (October 20th @ 5pm and Nov 17th @ 5pm)

Vamos a bailar y cantar y leer! Come listen and practice fun Spanish songs and stories! You don't have to speak Spanish- come have fun and learn! All ages.

Crafternoon (Tuesdays through November with exception of 11/21)

Drop in for a craft or two! All materials supplied. All ages welcome.

Lego Club (Thursdays through November- 3:30-5:30 pm with exception of 11/23). Ages 5-12.

Drop in and build your own LEGO creations! All materials provided.

Tween Builder's Stem Club (Saturday 10/14 and 11/11)

Love to build? Are you a creator of gadgets? Drop in and build your own creations with STEM toys like Brain Flakes, Bristle Blocks, K'nex Physics, Straws and Connectors and Marble Runs. Ages 8-12.

Read to Rover (Thursday 10/12 and 11/ at 2:30)

Bring your favorite book or pick out one in the library to read to or friend, Grady the dog!

Open Play (Thursdays through November at 11 am with exception of 11/23)

Drop in for play to help build your child's brain and encourage early literacy. Birth -5.

Pumpkin Painting with Cinderella (Sunday, October 8)

Come decorate a pumpkin with Cinderella! All supplies provided. Registration required. Pumpkins will be voted on the following week and the winning pumpkin will receive a prize!

Turkey in Disguise Contest (Saturday, Nov. 4)

Drop in from 10-12 to Disguise a turkey! These turkeys do not wish to be eaten on Thanksgiving, so disguise them so they won't be found. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required. Turkeys will be displayed and voted on the following week. Winning turkey will receive a prize.

Celebrate Faith Series: Christmas Storytime (Saturday, Nov. 11)

We continue our Celebrate Faith Series highlighting important religious holidays. This month we learn about Christmas through stories, songs and crafts.

No programs in December or January

Young Adult Programs:

Prism Club- (Wednesday, October 4 and November 1) 6-7pm

(Zombie Escape Room-October) and (Random crafts using YA closet art supplies (Free-for-all)-November)

Prism Club is a safe space without judgment for teens who share a common vision of equality to gather and build community. Come hang out with us in the library as we play games, do crafts, talk about our lives and build community! **Teens Grades 6-8.**

Teen Anime Club-(Wednesday, October 11) 6-7pm

Teens Grades 6-12

(No Anime november-january)

Meet with other fans of anime and manga to discover books, shows, movies, snacks, art and Japanese culture. Join us as we play games, eat snacks and watch anime.

Teen Book Club- (Monday, October 30 and November 27) 6-7pm

Teens grades 6-12

Join us as we discuss October's and November's Book (TBD)

Read and bring your own copy or stop by the front desk at the library and ask about the teen book club book. We have copies available for check out!

Teen D&D Club- (Monday, October 16 and November 20) 6-8pm

Grades 6-12

Join us for an interactive game of Dungeons and Dragons. All skill levels are welcome and DM's are encouraged. If you need help creating a character, shoot us an email and we would be happy to help. For right now, we are playing one-shots so don't worry about coming into an existing game with no idea of what is going on. We've got you covered. Prize drawing at the end of the evening. Grades 6-12

Teen STEAM Club- (Tuesday, October 10) 3-4pm

Grades 6-12

STEAM TOPIC: The Earth's Crust

- Teens will explore and identify rocks and minerals using scientific processes that geologists use in the field and the lab.
- Teens will assemble a model of the Earth's crust.
- Teens will look at and identify fossils.

Teens may work on one or all of these projects.

This program was made possible in collaboration with Cornell Center for Materials Research.

Teen STEAM Club- (Monday, November 6) 7-8pm

Grades 6-12

STEAM TOPIC: teen Skywatchers night

JOIN US TO TEST OUR NEW TELESCOPES

Is astronomy something you've always been interested in? Let's learn together! Clear Skies Required.

Check our social media prior to coming to be sure we have proper conditions for viewing

Spooky Crafts- (Wednesday, October 18) 6-8pm

Grades 6-12

Join us for a horror filled night as we make Jack-O'-Lantern Jars and paint Haunted Doll Heads!

Murder Mystery Night- (Wednesday, October 25) 6-8pm

Multi-Generational

"YOUR JOB IS TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO LOCAL TEEN JAMIE BANKS ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20TH, 1992 USING THE INVESTIGATOR'S ORIGINAL CASE FILE. ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE? DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SOLVE A COLD CASE?"

Gaming Night- (Wednesday, November 15) 6-8pm

Teens Grades 6-12

Round up your friends, grab your favorite handheld gaming device (whether a phone, tablet, Switch, etc.) and head on down to the library for a night of gaming fun!

We will have some gaming devices to share.

No programs in December or January

Adult Programs:

Bookish Trailblazers (Tuesdays, October 3 & November 7)

Come join us at Harris Shoals Park for a walk and a chance to talk (about books or anything!) with other members of the community. We will meet at

the Harris Shoals Park pavilion with the picnic tables and then take the walking trail.

Jack-o-Lantern Carving (Monday, October 9)

Join us to carve your own pumpkin! Each participant gets a pumpkin and supplies to carve a design of your choice! Please sign up on our website to secure your spot. This event is strictly for ages 18+ due to sharp carving tools.

Vietnamese Class (Mondays, October 9 & November 13)

Instructor Martine Thy Nguyen will lead a class for adults on the basics of Vietnamese. The program is free and open to all levels.

Dungeons & Dragons for Adults (Saturdays, October 14 & November 18)

Join a D&D campaign run by library staff. No previous experience is needed. Registration is required.

3rd Monday Book Club (Mondays, October 16, November 20, & December 18)

Meets every month to discuss books chosen by patrons. October's book is Amor Towles' The Lincoln Highway.

Paint & Sip (Monday, October 23)

We will paint a picture of a pumpkin patch perfect for your fall decorations. We will offer dessert and sparkling grape juice as patrons paint.

Murder Mystery Night- (Wednesday, October 25) 6-8pm

Multi-Generational

Join us for a Murder Mystery Party where you will be using the investigators' case files to solve the mystery of what happened to local teen Jamie Banks on the morning of November 20th, 1992.

Across the Board Book Club (Thursdays, October 26 & November 30)

Join us for a new book club on the last Thursday morning of every month! This month we will read Arsenic and Adobo by Mia P. Manansala. Limited copies are available at the front desk.

Pen Pals Writing Group (Mondays, October 30 & November 27)

Writing group where patrons can share their work and get feedback and edits from other writers.

All ages Programs:

Harvest in the Park (Saturday, October 28)

We are partnering with Wire Park to host an all ages Fall Festival from 10-2 at Wire Park. We will have games, costume competition, pumpkin decorating contest, special Halloween Magician, bake sale with items made by Beta Club Members, and a pie eating contest.

Walking in the Watkinsville Christmas Parade (Sunday, December 3)

The theme of parade is "A Story Book Christmas." Various staff members will be dressing up as different Dr. Seuss characters, decorating a book cart

and walking in the parade. We will be passing out candy to the children as we walk.

Christmas at Wire Park (date tbd)

We will have a table at the Christmas at Wire Park event. We will provide holiday crafts and color sheets for people who come.

Bogart Library Program Plans

Oct - Jan 2023

Age Group: Early-Literacy (children ages birth-6 with caregivers)

Monday Funday Preschool Story Time: Oct 16- Dec 11. (Resumes January 8th) (10:30 - 11:30 am)

Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to join Ms. Donna for a lively program of early literacy fun. We use puppets, songs, books and storytelling to build language and literacy skills. Stay afterwards for STEAM driven activities and play with friends. Highly interactive. The first Monday of each month is Maker Monday, while the last Monday is Musical Monday.

Busy Bee Toddler Time: Wednesdays, 10 & 11 am, September 13-Dec 4 (11 am is a repeat of the 10 am program) (Resumes January 10th)

Toddlers ages 12 months to 3 years and their caregivers are invited to join Ms. Donna for songs, rhymes, movement and story fun, using puppets, instruments and other manipulatives to build social skills, language and literacy. Highly interactive. **Registration requested.**

Meet & Play Fridays, 10:30 am - noon (ongoing)

Parents and little ones are invited to enjoy open play and make friends.

School Age & Tween Programming:

Lego Builders' Club (all ages, but best for ages 5 - 12)

Wednesdays. (Ongoing Sept 13 - Dec 13th) 3:30-5 pm

Drop in to build with our LEGOs, Duplos, Mega Blocks, and various paper and wooden manipulatives for imagination and logic building fun.

Read to Rover (ongoing)

Third Thursdays of each month, 4-5 pm. Ages 4 & up are invited to read to one of our visiting TDI dogs.

Chapter Chat Book Club (twens ages 8-11) 4th Thursdays 4:30-5:30 pm

Fourth Thursday of each month, 4:30-5:30 pm September - November and January - April, twens ages 8-11 are invited to join Mr. Paul or Ms. Donna for discussions, crafts and snacks based on a middle grade novel.

Oct: *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Nov: *The Wizard of Oz* by L.Frank Baum (* Tuesday, Nov 21st) includes showing of the classic movie.

Teen/Tween Programming

Dungeons & Dragons for Twens/Teens

1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month, ongoing 6-8 pm

Gingerfest: Nailed It!

Wednesday, December 20th

Teens and Twens, join Ms. Blaine & Ms. Donna for fast-paced fun, creating a gingerbread house, NAILED IT! Style. We'll make no-bake gingerbread houses using graham crackers, icing and candies.

Twens: 2-3 pm

Teens: 4-5 pm

Adult Programming:

Bogart Bookies Afternoon Book Club, First Tuesdays of each month @ 1 pm

Memoir Writers' Group: 2nd Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm

Help I Yarned! Fiber Arts Group: Tuesdays, October 17th & November, 21st @ 6 pm and Fridays, October 20th, November 17th and December 15th @ 1pm

Sewing Circle: First Wednesday of each month, 11 am - 1 pm

KnitLits: Every Thursday, 6-8 pm

Mystery Book Club, October 24th, November 28th and December 19th @ 5:30 pm

Art for Adults: Pumpkin Glass Painting, Tuesday, October 17th 6 pm

Family Events (Teen/Adult)

Frigh-day Frights! Movie Series

4:30 - 6 pm

Adults, tweens and teens are invited to a discussion and showing of classic horror films every Friday in October. Popcorn, lemonade and art supplies provided.

October 7: Frankenstein (1931. Rated TV-PG)

October 14: The Mummy (1932. Rated TV-14)

October 21: Little Shop of Horrors (1960. TV-14)

October 28: Dracula (1931. TV-14)

Science Night: Eclipse Edition Tuesday, October 10 @ 6:30

An annular eclipse is coming! All ages are invited to join Dr. Maurice Snook for information about this amazing event. Learn about safe viewing and how to make your own visual tools. Free solar glasses available to attendees. Families welcome.

Chilling Tales: Thursday, October 26th 7-8

Join Storyteller Donna Butler for chilling folktales from southern Appalachian and Celtic traditions. **Ages 11 and up only.**

The Amazing Story of William & Ellen Craft Saturday, Nov 11 @ 11 am

Join Master Storyteller Jeannette Waddell to hear the amazing true story of William and Ellen Craft, the enslaved Georgia couple whose daring and ingenious escape to freedom is still celebrated today.

Family Fun!

Board Games (All ages four to senior adult)

Saturdays, October 18th and November 25th, 2 - 4 pm

Hogwarts' Halloween, October 28th 2-4 pm

Family fun for Harry Potter fans. Crafts, games and photo opportunities.

Boo, Ya'!!!: Halloween Games and Crafts

Passive program, Tuesday, Oct 31, 12:30-7:30

Join us for Halloween fun, then visit the City of Bogart's Trunk or Treat from 6 - 8 pm. All ages, but best for ages 3-9

Booking It with Santa

Saturday, December 9, 11 am - 1 pm

Join us for Holiday STEAM fun, snacks & a visit with Santa! Free book giveaways, while supplies last. All ages welcome, but best for ages 2 & up.

Family Movie Night: The Muppet Christmas Carol (G) Tuesday, December 19, 6 pm

Hey, Families! Dress in jammies, bring blankies and settle in for a fun-filled frolic of sing-along holiday fun. Hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn will be served. All ages!

Gingerfest! Wednesday, December 20, 10:30 - noon

It's back! Families with little ones, join us for creative, tasty crafts and fine motor activities. Loads of fun and a sweet good time will be had by all!

Family Movie Afternoon: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (PG) 3 pm, Thursday, December 28. Join us for the movie version of the classic tale. Tweens, join Mr. Paul for a discussion and activities about the book for our January Chapter Chat on Thursday, January 22nd.

New Year's Eve Eve, Saturday, December 30th

Two family events to celebrate 2024! Families with younger children are invited for crafts, crafts, crafts and photo opportunities from 11 am - noon. Families with children ages 4 & up are invited to drop in 2 - 5:30 pm for **Board Game Fun!** Bring your own favorites or play ours.